

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

# WARRIOR CITIZEN

## “OPEN WIDE”

Free Medical Care for Hawaii Residents **PG 17**

NCOs Train in Mud **PG 25**

Swings for Sadr City **PG 29**

Liberating Buchenwald **PG 30**





# CALLING ALL...



# PHOTOGRAPHERS!!!!

Your photo could  
be the NEXT cover of  
Warrior-Citizen Magazine!

- **EXTENDED DEADLINE:** November 14, 2009
- Only one photo submission per Soldier or Army Reserve Civilian
- Photo resolution must be three megapixels or greater in size
- Photographer's full contact information is required: name, rank, unit, telephone number and e-mail address
- Detailed caption of the photo: full names, ranks and units of Soldiers in the photo
- Vertical images ONLY with strong action
- Send your images to Warrior-Citizen Magazine, Subject Line: Photo Call for Entries, [timothy.l.hale@us.army.mil](mailto:timothy.l.hale@us.army.mil) and [laurel.hubred@usar.army.mil](mailto:laurel.hubred@usar.army.mil)

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# WARRIOR CITIZEN

SUMMER 2009 ★ VOL. 54 NO. 3



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# ACE

**Ask Your Buddy**

**Care for Your Buddy**

**Escort Your Buddy**

Suicide prevention is everyone's business. Active engagement of everyone can help to minimize the risk of suicide to stop this tragic and unnecessary loss of human life. The success of the Army Suicide Prevention Program rests upon proactive, caring and courageous people who recognize the imminent danger and then take immediate action to save a life.

**For more information, visit the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 website at:**  
**<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp>**

# SUICIDE INTERVENTION



**U.S. ARMY**

**ARMY STRONG.**

## » EDITOR'S NOTE

The phrase “Worldwide Operations” is certainly apropos to the Army Reserve. Today the deployment of our Soldiers is both diverse and far-reaching. In four continents, 18 countries and the United States, our Soldiers are on point performing their vital missions.

In a series of articles about our medical Soldiers, we share their stories performing medical, dental, veterinary and engineer assistance in Hawaii, Belize and in seven other Caribbean countries as well as aboard the Navy ship USNS Comfort, on a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission as part of Continuing Promise 2009. Twenty Soldiers sharpened their medical skills while enhancing their training on board Comfort, ashore and alongside host nation personnel. In Belize, 30 Soldiers from the 7212th Medical Support Unit were a part of the U.S. Southern Command Exercise “Beyond the Horizon.”

Also, to see another group of Soldiers excelling at training, don't miss the stories on Blue Fire III and Red Dragon '09 taking place in CONUS. In Blue Fire III, an emergency response exercise with Army Reserve units in the North Chicago area and Operation Red Dragon, a Homeland Defense training exercise

in southeast Wisconsin, coordination and communication between the military, area hospitals and local authorities were tested to enhance military responsiveness in the event of a real world disaster. Red Dragon concluded with Soldiers undergoing validation testing of their response skills by Army officials.



Lastly, in this issue we bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Alan D. Bell, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. Maj. Gen. Bell has served his Nation and Army with loyalty and selflessness for 40 years. As he goes off to a well-deserved retirement, we at Warrior-Citizen will miss him and wish him Godspeed.

As always, Warrior-Citizen needs story and photographic contributions from the field. Remember, this is your magazine, and it is a great venue through which to tell your unit story.

Paul Adams  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

### ON THE COVER

Maj. Kevin Johnson, a dentist with the 7238th Medical Support Unit, examines a child from an Oahu, North Shore area school during his annual training. Johnson served with the Army Reserve's 7202nd Medical Support Unit, from Richmond, Va. They went out into community schools to provide free dental exams for the local students. Photo by Maj. William D. Ritter.

### ON THE BACK COVER

How to earn \$2,000. The Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program (AR-RAP) makes every Soldier a potential recruiter.

### UPPER CENTER

Graphic by Timothy L. Hale.

#### ARMY RESERVE COMMAND TEAM

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Chief, Army Reserve

**Chief Warrant Officer 5 James E. Thompson**

Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Army Reserve

**Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Caffie**

Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve

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**SUBMISSIONS** • Warrior-Citizen invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (Warrior-Citizen), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All email submissions should go to [usarmacmag@usar.army.mil](mailto:usarmacmag@usar.army.mil). All articles must be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

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» FROM THE TOP

# Major General Alan D. Bell

## HONORED FOR

# leadership & service

By Sgt. Carolyn Ennis

2nd Battle Command Training Group



Maj. Gen Alan D. Bell's portrait circa 1969.  
Courtesy Maj. Gen Bell.

**FORT COLLINS, Colo.** — After balancing demanding military and civilian career obligations for 40 years, Maj. Gen. Alan D. Bell is preparing to take off his combat boots for good.

As Bell looks toward retirement this year, many military organizations across the country, including the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), are recognizing the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command's dedication to "service above self."

### UNIVERSITY DAYS

In 1965, at the age of 17, Bell started his military career in the ROTC program at Colorado State University. Although he transferred to Michigan State University in 1967, the current Colorado State University staff and ROTC cadre were pleased Bell agreed to be the keynote speaker at the university's annual military ball, held on campus on April 24, 2009.

Lt. Col. Andrew Groeger, professor of Military Science and ROTC battalion commander at Colorado State University, expressed his utmost respect for Bell during remarks at the military ball. "It's a great honor for Maj. Gen. Bell to join us at this event. The current and future officers in our ROTC program value, appreciate and respect the experience and dedication to service he brings to the Army," said Groeger.

As a heartfelt token of honor and appreciation, Groeger awarded the general officer a keepsake book of Colorado photographs taken by renowned photographers W.H. Jackson and John Fielder.

Bell credits his leadership skills to a ROTC education that began at Colorado State during the Vietnam era. "In ROTC, I learned the leadership skills that I would use throughout my life. Probably far more in my civilian endeavors than in my military career," Bell stated fondly as he spoke before nearly 200 cadets, veterans and guests. "What an opportunity to come back to this great university after 42 years and see these young faces. This is where it all started, so it is an honor to be here with you all."

Prior to the third year of his secondary education, Bell chose to continue his ROTC career and subsequently graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Michigan State University in 1969.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served several years on active duty as an armor officer before transitioning in 1975 to what would become an exceptionally successful career in the Army Reserve.

The Michigan State University ROTC program also honored Bell for his leadership and service. During a formal

ceremony at the Kellogg Convention Center, located on the campus of his Alma Mater in East Lansing, Mich., Bell was inducted April 21, 2009 into the Michigan State University ROTC Hall of Fame.

"Inducting alumni into our Hall of Fame is a tradition founded upon the principle of recognizing not only outstanding alumni achievement but also presenting an example of leadership for our current and future cadets to emulate," said Lt. Col. James Rouse, ROTC Battalion commander and chairperson for the Michigan State University Department of Military Science. "Maj. Gen. Bell's record and length of service are what we encourage all of our cadets to strive for," emphasized Rouse.

### CAREER EXPECTATIONS

When Bell began his career as a cadet four decades ago, he never anticipated he would eventually become the Deputy Commanding General of the Army Reserve.

"You don't imagine that you'll be the Deputy Commanding General of the Army Reserve when you're 50, let alone when you are 17," chuckled Bell before continuing humbly. "It's such an incredible privilege to have this position. I was honored when Lt. Gen. Stultz asked me if I wanted to be the [Deputy Commanding General]. It is the culmination of a wonderful career, and I have put my heart into it and enjoyed every day of it."

### A DELICATE BALANCING ACT

The demands placed upon a Citizen-Soldier rarely diminish. Balancing two full careers and family life has always been and continues to be a challenge for America's sons and daughters who wear the uniform.

"You learn to make sacrifices along the way. Any Army Reserve Soldier will tell you, you're making sacrifices all the way through," said Bell thoughtfully. "I'm not sure where the sacrifices are the greatest, whether it's on the Soldier, on the employer or on the family, because you're being stretched so much. But we seem to make it all work. We have 206,000 Soldiers doing it every day in the Army Reserve, and I am just one of those stories."

### CADETS EYE THE FUTURE

Capt. Michael Lathrop, the newest member of the ROTC cadre at Colorado State, has a great deal of respect for the Army's youngest future leaders.

"It says a lot about the character of these students to join ROTC during a time our country is at war. They all joined after 9-11 and each one of them knows that in just a matter of time, they'll be leading troops in locations all over the world," said Lathrop.

Bell also attended college during a time of war and can relate to the anxiety some cadets probably experience today.

"While I was in ROTC, the country was in the middle of the Vietnam War. The war was very unpopular, and the ROTC and its position on campus weren't especially popular. As a result, there was a lot of trouble on many of the campuses across the United States during that time," recalls Bell.

"While today's cadets are not facing an unpopular war, I believe they probably have some of the same anxieties. These young men and women choose to serve in something greater than one's self, to serve our great nation and protect our freedoms."

### LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

As Bell's career reaches the point of culmination and he prepares for retirement in the coming months, he feels envious of today's cadets as they begin their careers.

"I have had a wonderful career and traveled all over the world. I have met and sat at the table with some of the greatest leaders on the face of the earth, and I am envious of what these kids are going to go into. Because of the nature of our business and the constant changing



SGT. CAROLYN ENNIS

**ABOVE:** Maj. Gen. Bell's Official Photo.  
**LEFT:** Maj. Gen. Bell proudly receives a "Hall of Fame" award from Lt. Col. James Rouse, chairperson for the Department of Military Science at Michigan State University.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Maj. Gen. Bell retired from the Army Reserve in August 2009.*

of our assignments, you never know what's next," Bell added emphatically. "The military is one of those things where you never know what door is going to open, what path you're going to go down. To me, it was always exciting, and I think it is exciting to these kids who are about to enter into military careers."

### A GENERAL'S CHARGE TO CADETS

Bell recognizes and appreciates the decision these cadets have made to lead a life of service and encourages them to "seize every opportunity and add value to this nation and the world."

"My advice is to live life to the fullest and seize every opportunity, because the military is full of opportunity. No matter what you want to do, you can do it in the Army. You will have opportunity to go into foreign countries and see the difference that our Army makes and the world will be a different place because of you," said Bell.

"Be very proud of what you are doing and be proud of the nation you serve. Be proud of the institution you're graduating from and the institution you are about to enter, the U.S. Army." ❖



## » BLOGS AND WEB SITES

## BEST WARRIOR

GreenCare for Troops - Project EverGreen

http://bestwarrior.wordpress.com/

## Army Reserve Command "Best Warrior" Competition

Home of the Army Reserve Command "Best Warriors"

HOME PHOTOS OF THE COMPETITION PRESS RELEASES WARRIORS WHAT EVENT WOULD YOU ADD TO THE BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION?

### What is the Army Reserve "Best Warrior" Competition

The Army Reserve Command "Best Warrior" Competition will be held at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 13-17, 2009. This event will test the physical and mental abilities of the Warriors to determine the top noncommissioned officer (NCO) and junior enlisted Soldier. These top two will represent the Army Reserve at the Army-level "Best Warrior" competition later this year at Fort Lee, Va. Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2009. The Army-level winners will be announced in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Oct. 5, 2009.

**Subscribe**

Entries (RSS)  
Comments (RSS)

**Pages**

Photos of the competition  
Press Releases  
Warriors  
What event would you add to the Best Warrior competition?

**Archives**

### A deeper look into Best Warrior from two of the competitors...

Posted by armypao75 on July 24, 2009



Army Reserve Soldiers Compete to be the "Best Warrior."

Who will be the Best Warrior?

That question loomed over an impressively strong field of 26 of the sharpest warfighters the Army Reserve had to offer during its annual Best Warrior Competition, a four-day battle of minds, brute strength, and guts that sought to establish one Soldier and one noncommissioned officer as the best Citizen/Soldier around, bar none.

Click to read the full story ... how do you think YOU would have fared at Best Warrior?

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a Comment »

### Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Butler and Spec. Shiloh Becher Named Best Warriors

Posted by geraldostlund on July 18, 2009

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin  
July 17, 2009

The Army Reserve named Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Butler, 4225th Medical Hospital in Helena, Mont., and Spec. Shiloh Becher, 461st Engineer Company, Fargo, N.D., Best Warriors for 2009. The two were chosen NCO and Soldier of the Year for the Army Reserve after a grueling week-long competition against 28 other competitors.



Read Staff Sgt. Butler's biography.  
Read Spec. Becher's biography.  
Who were the competitors? What were the events in the Best Warrior Competition?  
Photos and videos of the Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition and both Staff Sgt. Butler and Spec. Becher as they competed can be found on the official Army Reserve Flickr page.

**Today's Date**

August 2009

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31						

« Jul

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## WWW.BESTWARRIOR.WORDPRESS.COM

➔ THE ARMY RESERVE COMMAND "BEST WARRIOR" Competition was held at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 13-17, 2009. This event tested the physical and mental abilities of the Warriors and determined the top NCO and junior enlisted Soldier. These top two will represent the Army Reserve at the Army-level "Best Warrior" competition at Fort Lee, Va. Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2009.

Follow along as they compete at any one of the Army Reserve's social media web sites. The Army-level winners will be announced in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Oct. 5, 2009.

www.armyreserve.army.mil  
www.myarmyreserve.blogspot.com

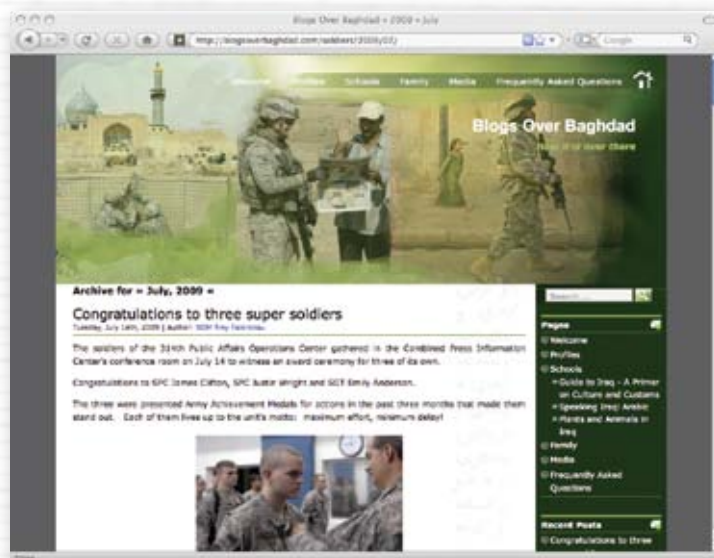
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## WWW.PROJECTEVERGREEN.COM/GCFT

**GREENCARE FOR TROOPS**, a nationwide outreach program that Project EverGreen initiated, connects participating landscape maintenance professionals and volunteers with Families of deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces. More than 8,000 Families have signed up to date. Find the online registration forms under the "How to Help" tab on the Web site.



## WWW.BLOGSOVERBAGHDAD.COM

**WELCOME TO THE** blog site of the Army Reserve's 314th Public Affairs Operation Center while it is in Iraq during 2009. This site offers insight into the thoughts of Warrior-Citizens who have left behind their civilian lives in the United States to serve the nation. The unit, based in Birmingham, Ala., is comprised of mostly print and broadcast military journalists, with some administrative, logistical and technical support specialists.



## WWW.MYARMYRESERVE.BLOGSPOT.COM

**VISIT THE OFFICIAL** blog of the Army Reserve and check out what is happening in the Army Reserve and post your thoughts. This site changes daily with updates with plenty of information from the field.

## » NEWS YOU CAN USE

## PDHRA: Views from a Soldier

By Lt. Col. Sophia Tillman-Ortiz

PDHRA Program Manager



Virginia Commonwealth University. Following his last deployment in 2006, Rogers used his skills as a therapist at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Richmond VA Medical Center to help fellow Soldiers and he has seen the benefits of the PDHRA first-hand. “Everyday, I see Soldiers who fought in Iraqi Freedom taking advantage of the VA programs,” Rogers said. He has witnessed many Soldiers receive therapy as a result of the PDHRA.

As a recreational therapist, Rogers is used to helping Soldiers with their transition to civilian life. Recently, he had the opportunity to work with a Soldier he fought beside in theater and who was referred to him by the PDHRA. “One of my friends is currently at the VA where he receives counseling so he can be the type of husband and father his family deserves.” Rogers’ work with Soldiers has helped make a difference in their lives.

Currently, the Army Reserve has screened 95 percent of all required Soldiers and continues to make strides to ensure all Reserve Soldiers are screened and referred for further evaluation, if necessary. Soldiers can complete the PDHRA by either logging into their “My Medical Readiness Page” via AKO or attending an on-site screening event or Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event. ■

**WASHINGTON** — To facilitate a Soldier’s transition from Army to civilian life, the U.S. Army has taken steps to safeguard the health and well-being of those who served in a combat deployment with the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) screening.

Capt. Clinton Rogers, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 80th Training Command, returned home from Iraq in 2006 and faced a whirlwind of emotions that left him excited and stressed. “You can go ahead and say I got my limbs, thank God and think you’re alright. However, it’s the family and friends who can tell you help is still needed,” explained Rogers.

The PDHRA Program is part of the Department of Defense’s overall Force Health Protection Program and is a global health initiative based on solid research.

The U.S. Army requires all Soldiers who have returned from a combat zone since March 10, 2005 to complete the

PDHRA screening.

The PDHRA includes Soldiers taking part in “Battlemind II Training,” which emphasizes safe and healthy personal relationships and teaches Soldiers to look out for each other’s health. Soldiers must complete the DD Form 2900 that asks about physical and behavioral health concerns. Soldiers also speak with a healthcare provider and when issues are identified, the Soldier is referred for follow-up care.

After his deployment in 2006, Rogers benefited from the PDHRA. “I knew it was important to have an honest dialogue with the doctor to see if anything was wrong. When I went through it, I had no problems discussing my concerns. You’re only fooling yourself if you can return home and think everything is normal.”

After spending two years as an active duty Soldier between 1986 and 1988, Rogers returned to Virginia where he completed his bachelor’s degree at

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
on the PDHRA Program, visit:  
[www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/pdhra](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/pdhra).

go



# Sexual Assault Training

Story and Photo By Master Sgt. Christina Steiner

84th Training Command

**FORT MCCOY, Wis.** — The third annual Joint Services Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program training brought more than 125 participants nationwide to Fort McCoy from April 27 to May 1, 2009 for an engaging five days of certification and recertification as unit or installation victim advocates (UVA/IVA). The workshop took place at the Wisconsin Military Academy.

## OTHER MYTHS CONTINUE TO BLAME THE VICTIM BY SUGGESTING THAT CLOTHING OR CERTAIN BEHAVIORS PRIOR TO AN ASSAULT MADE THE VICTIM AT FAULT.

Subject-matter experts in psychology, criminology, counseling and advocacy spoke at length to UVA trainees and those receiving annual recertification. Instruction was interactive, to include small-group break-out sessions, partner and group exercises and film documentaries.

Some of the latest SAPR research shows that “one in four women and one in six men have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime,” said Lt. Col. Cynthia Rasmussen, psychiatric nurse specializing in combat stress and SAPR for the 88th Regional Support Command at Fort Snelling, Minn. Rasmussen helped found the Army’s SAPR program in 2004 and wrote some of the Department of Defense Issuances on the topic.

“There are things that may happen in this room this week that may trigger memories,” Rasmussen said. “We have confidentiality and want you to feel safe. Rank has no concerns here. We’re all here to learn.”

Many myths and stereotypes surrounding sexual assault still exist today, despite research to the contrary. One myth is: if a victim is being sexually assaulted, why doesn’t she or he scream and fight back? Other myths continue to blame the victim by suggesting that clothing or certain behaviors prior to an assault made the victim at fault.

“More than 50 percent of victims believe their lives are in danger during the assault and they freeze up,” said 1st Lt. Kristen Boustany, Joint Forces Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and one of the instructors during the week. “One new initiative is, ‘Ask her when she’s sober,’ which will avoid legal trouble [for the initiator].”

“Eighty-four percent of sexual assaults are non strangers, and more than half are intimate partners,” said Boustany.

SAPR is a Defense Department program, though each individual service may have slightly different terminology and protocol. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Office, headquartered at the Pentagon, governs each service’s program. Confidential victim reporting became available in 2005. Up until then, victim reporting always initiated a criminal investigation. With confidential reporting, victims can receive health and psychological counseling, and can choose whether to press charges and initiate an investigation later. This is an incentive to encourage sexual assault victims to seek help. ❏



Students participate in interactive practical exercises during the third annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Certification workshop.

# H1N1: What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

The Surgeon’s office is launching an H1N1 Influenza Awareness and Prevention Campaign to mitigate and minimize the effects on Soldiers and the civilian workforce. There are four lines of action to assist in combating this virus. The first line of action is hygiene—wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze, stay home if you are sick. The second line of action is the vaccination. The vaccine to protect individuals against Influenza A (H1N1) should be available this fall.

The third line is leadership; leaders at all levels must take a proactive and strong stance to protect the force. As the vaccine becomes available, leaders must rapidly coordinate with the Reserve Health Readiness Program to schedule group vaccination events. And finally, education is the last line of defense. ❏

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
on H1N1 Influenza Awareness  
and Prevention visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa.htm)

go





# Scouting and Soldiering

## THE ARTMAN BROTHERS



COURTESY OF THE ARTMAN FAMILY

Spencer's older brother, Col. Stuart Artman, left, his younger brother, Lt. Col. Sandy Artman, far right, now a colonel, gather at Benjamin Artman's Basic Training Graduation at Fort Jackson, S.C. on Sept. 21, 2007. Not pictured is oldest brother Stephen Artman, a veteran and successful lawyer in Florida.



PAUL ADAMS

Spencer Artman, an Army Reserve colonel and Eagle Scout.



By Angela L. Sims

Army Reserve Public Affairs

**ATLANTA** — Col. Spencer Artman is in good company with the likes of Neil Armstrong, former President Gerald R. Ford and Steven Spielberg. All of these men are members of the Boy Scout's elite, an Eagle Scout, the highest advancement in scouting.

What makes this achievement special for Artman, the third of four brothers, is that by achieving this rank, Spencer, became the fifth member of his family to achieve

Eagle Scout rank, joining his older brothers Stephen, Stuart, younger brother Sanford and his father, Robert.

"I feel accomplished — that's probably the best word for it," said Spencer Artman, a Florida Southern College graduate and Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Training, headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command. "It's pretty much a family thing, and a tradition we have going — not many people are Eagle Scouts. It's something that sets my family apart."

According to the Boy Scouts of America, there have been more than 1.7 million scouts since 1912, with only about five percent of all Boy Scouts achieving the

designation of Eagle Scout.

Family tradition doesn't stop with scouting, however. Another tradition passed down by his dad, a retired U.S. Army Reserve colonel, is the duty of service to country. The four Artman siblings have all served or are currently serving in the Army or the Army Reserve. Three of the siblings have achieved the distinguished rank of colonel. Collectively, they have served in Desert Storm, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and Guantanamo.

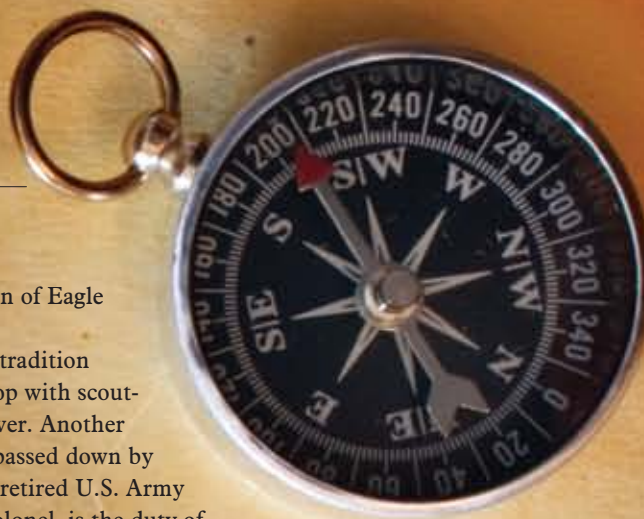
"There was quite a lot of competitiveness in our household," Col. Artman said. "My grandparents, dad and mom were always there to support us. It felt good having people around that wanted us to accomplish something."

The Artmans know how precious the time with their family is and even though they are geographically miles apart, they still maintain strong family ties and support each other.

Reflecting on what he thought his father, who passed away in 2000, and mother would say about the honors their sons have achieved, Spencer said, "They are

very proud of us all. Dad and Mom always emphasized the importance of giving something back to our great country, not forcing the military on us, but as a duty to serve."

Another generation of Artmans is taking up the family traditions of scouting and service. Spencer's son, Trey, a rising eighth grader at Arnall Middle School and life scout, is also striving for the rank of Eagle Scout. Spencer's nephew, Ben, the eldest son of Col. Sanford Artman, is currently serving in Iraq. ★





# Spc. Tucker Trades Tips for Scrubs



ABOVE: Spc. Rebecca Tucker, 807th Medical Command, checks the temperature of a Dominican woman following surgery on board the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort.

Story and Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Brian Scott

366th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SANTA DOMINGO**, Dominican Republic — Once patients onboard hospital ship USNS Comfort complete surgery, their first stop on the road to recovery is the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

Operating room technicians take patients from surgery to the PACU where a team of nurses and specialists take over their care, making sure the patients wake up in a safe and comfortable environment.

Comfort has 250 patient beds and more than 900 personnel embarked, employing four operating rooms, X-ray machines, a CT scan, a pharmacy, dental suites, physical therapy and a variety of other services.

Helping to care for the patients is Spc. Rebecca Tucker, 807th Medical Command from San Antonio, Texas. Tucker works as a waitress in her civilian job and volunteered for this mission.

"This mission has touched my heart," said Tucker. "I have taken for granted all that we have available in America. I am so glad I was able to volunteer for this

mission. It really is a blessing. I am excited to come back in two years to help again."

Comfort is embarked on Continuing Promise 2009 (CP 09), which is a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission to Latin America and the Caribbean. CP 09 provides an opportunity not only to provide humanitarian aid but also to learn from host nation partners and train a diverse team of experts who are able to respond to a regional crisis.

"The training has been great and will help me get my certification to work in civilian hospitals in the states," Tucker added. "I hope to get through as many patients as we can, not only for experience but also for their benefit."

CP 09 demonstrates U.S. SOUTHCOM and U.S. 4th Fleet's commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean. USNS Comfort is scheduled to visit seven countries as part of CP 09: Antigua & Barbuda, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Panama. ✱

*The training has been great and will help me get my certification to work in civilian hospitals in the states. I hope to get through as many patients as we can, not only for experience but also for their benefit.*

-Spc. Rebecca Tucker





# Soldier Joins Elite Group of Silver Star Recipients

By Maj. Corey Schultz

Army Reserve Communications

SPC. FELICIA SALAZAR



Spc. David Hutchinson, 420th Engineer Brigade, is the fifth Army Reserve Soldier to be awarded the Silver Star.

The first thing Spc. David Hutchinson saw when he regained consciousness in the vehicle's crew compartment was the gaping shrapnel wounds to the face and head of 1st Sgt. David Gusberry. He then recalled the two enemy RPG rounds that had struck his up-armored Humvee and caused him to collapse from the grenade launcher he had been manning seconds earlier.

It was just the fourth day of Spc. David Hutchinson's year-long deployment to Afghanistan. By the end of the day, his actions would make him the fifth Army Reserve Soldier to earn the Silver Star medal as part of post-9/11 overseas contingency operations.

May 21, 2008 began with a routine two-hour patrol at 9 a.m. through the mountains of Afghanistan. The four-vehicle Personal Security Detail from the 420th Engineer Brigade of Bryan, Texas had been patrolling the area for under a week. Hutchinson was in the third Humvee, manning the convoy's grenade launcher.

After an hour of flat, open country the PSD began weaving through rocky, mountainous terrain that inclined about 45 degrees on either side. At the top of a

300-foot incline, the path twisted to the left before a brief stretch of straight road. That was when Hutchinson heard the .50 caliber machine gun fire from the lead vehicle.

"I couldn't see what the first truck was firing at, but instantly remembered my training," Hutchinson said. "I looked up afterwards to scan my sector," the 3 o'clock, or right side of the convoy.

In addition to five insurgents firing down on them with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire, there was a hidden machine gun nest among the rocks just below. Hutchinson's return fire disrupted the enemy's attack so effectively that the insurgents focused their efforts on him and his MK-19 grenade launcher. He held his position under intense fire, destroying the machine gun nest and killing the five insurgents in a hail of grenades.

Two rounds remained in his 48-round ammo can when Hutchinson stopped firing. At the same moment the two RPG's struck his vehicle.

After regaining consciousness, Hutchinson administered first aid to Gusberry, controlling the bleeding as the convoy moved out of the kill zone.

"When the MEDEVAC arrived, the medics began administering first aid while I helped as much as I could from inside the truck," said Hutchinson. "I then noticed a sharp pain and burning in my right leg." That was when the medics working on Gusberry noticed burn marks on the leg of Hutchinson's uniform.

He had taken shrapnel to his right leg in two places. Both Soldiers were flown to Forward Operating Base Orgune, where Hutchinson was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston Texas for six months of rehabilitation after multiple surgeries.

Hutchinson's actions without a doubt thwarted the enemy actions that day, and contributed to the safety of 17 Soldiers. For his extraordinary courage, loyalty and selfless service under fire, he earned the Silver Star medal on June 6, 2009.

Hutchinson enlisted in the Army Reserve in December 2005. In his civilian occupation he works for AT&T as a retail sales associate. In addition to the Silver Star, Hutchison has been awarded the Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism and Combat Action Badge. ✘

## Soldier's Story Provides INSIGHT & INSPIRATION

Story and Photo By  
Capt. Charles Patterson  
188th Infantry Brigade



Sgt. 1st Class Tara Watson proudly displays her book, "Weathering the Storm: A Young actor's Journey to Hollywood."

**FORT GILLEM, Ga.** — Sgt. 1st Class Tara Watson and her son Xavier were like many Families in 2005, relocated after losing everything in Hurricane Katrina. Unlike other New Orleans residents, however, she had just returned from Iraq and her Family was depending on her.

Overcoming the loss, relocating her family and finding strength in the Army inspired Tara to share her story in her 2008 picture book, "Weathering the Storm: A Young Actor's Journey to Hollywood."

The book uses the Army's "Be, Know, Do" leadership philosophy as a framework to explain how her family found strength in the Army, triumphed through Hurricane Katrina and how her son, Xavier, found his way through the tragedy and into a promising acting career.

Watson is the S-4 (Supply) NCO in charge at the 3rd Battalion, 345th Infantry Regiment. ✘



# CHINA ADOPTION

## A good option for military families

By Maj. Bruce and Karen Ladman

U.S. Army Reserve Logistics G-4

**FORT MCPHERSON, Ga.** — Adopting from China was something other people did. That's what we thought, but after learning about how many children are living in orphanages in China, we felt that we could give one of those children a home and at the same time give ourselves the family we have always wanted. But what were we going to have to go through to make this happen?

Deciding on an adoption agency was our first challenge. We conducted extensive online research and orientation visits to various agencies, and chose to adopt from China through Chinese Children's Adoption International (CCAI) in March 2006. The staff was extremely helpful and assisted us all along the way as we maneuvered through the stacks of required paperwork and

background checks. At times, we found ourselves wondering how many families with natural born children would have been eligible to have that child if they had to go through all these hurdles first.

We completed all the paperwork approximately five months after we started and sent our packet off to China in July 2006. Then we waited. And waited some more. Then we waited a little bit longer. China has greatly reduced the number of children eligible for international adoption. A wait that was predicted to be 10-12 months in 2006 is now projected to be three years or longer.

During the wait, we became involved with a group of families who have adopted or are waiting to adopt through our agency's Waiting Child Program.

We met several children who had special needs such as heart conditions, or cleft lip and cleft palate. After lots of discussions and prayer, we decided we could provide a home to one of these children. And with the outstanding medical benefits provided through Tricare, it seemed that we were good candidates for adopting our child through this program.

In November 2007 we received a precious phone call. The magic day had arrived! We found out that we were matched with Wei Jian Tong, a beautiful 2 and a half-year-old boy who had been born with a cleft lip and palate. His lip had been repaired while in the orphanage in China, but his palate would still require surgery. We quickly accepted the referral and began preparing to travel to China. We decided that we would name





Micah, 3 1/2, smiles and plays with play dough.



PHOTOS COURTESY MAJ. BRUCE LADMAN

Maj. Bruce Ladman and his wife, Karen, first meet their new adopted son, Micah, then known as Wei Jian Tong, at the Tianjin Children's Welfare Institute in Tianjin, China.

our son Micah Jiantong Ladman. We were aware of the challenges of adopting a child from China and being in the military. There would be extra hoops to jump through in order to travel to China, but we found them fairly easy to get through. A positive discovery was made while we were completing military requirements for traveling overseas. We learned that the military offers up to 21 days of non-chargeable leave if you are adopting a child. The military also reimburses up to \$2,000 for adoption-related expenses.

We arrived in Beijing, China on Feb. 14, 2008 and traveled to Tianjin, China on Feb. 17. The day Micah was placed in our arms was Feb. 18. The last week in February, we travelled to Guangzhou, China to the U.S. Consulate to complete required paperwork to get Micah's visa and validate that he would become a U.S. citizen upon entry into the U.S. on our return trip. We returned home on

March 1, 2008 and landed at the Detroit airport at which time our son officially became a U.S. citizen.

All in all, our wait was two years long. We chose to think of this as a very long pregnancy. We believe God had a plan for us and there was already a specific child out there, just waiting to be matched with us. Choosing to adopt is humbling and a bit overwhelming, but it's also exciting and awesome.

Our most important job when we returned was bonding with our 2 and a half-year-old son. It was a challenge, but with patience, love and hard work we became a family. Micah has been at home with us for one year now and memories of the tough times are fading away. We now experience the same highs and lows that any family goes through. You just have to stick with it, have faith in what you are doing and never give up. Before you know it, you will have that beautiful child in your arms. ✕

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Maj. Bruce Ladman is currently stationed at Fort McPherson, Ga., as a logistics staff officer, U.S. Army Reserve Command G-4. His wife, Karen, is a full-time mom and part-time pre-school music teacher at Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Peachtree City, Ga. They both love the challenges and rewards of being parents and share their story of adopting a child from China.*

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are many resources online to assist families with research, completing paperwork, uncovering benefits and preparing for adoption. For further information please visit:

**[www.dfas.mil/militarypay/adoptionreimbursement.html](http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/adoptionreimbursement.html)**

go



# Partnerships Made in PARADISE

## 7202ND PROVIDES MEDICAL CARE TO OAHU RESIDENTS IN NEED

Story and Photos By Maj. William Ritter

Army Reserve Medical Command

**KAHUKU, Hawaii** — In this lush tropical paradise where many go to retire or for their dream vacation, local residents are faced with a persistent medical nightmare. Thanks to one Army Reserve unit, residents slept easy for a few weeks knowing the care they normally lack was right around the corner.

Members of the 7202nd Medical Support Unit, from Richmond, Va. came to this North Shore community March 13-27, 2009 as part of their two-week annual training. Their mission was simple: provide medical and dental assistance to the region's citizens. Many Soldiers were unclear as to exactly what that would entail, but were looking forward to visiting the union's 50th state.

They worked in conjunction with the Hawaii Air National Guard, and partnered with the Hawaii State Department of Health during the "E Malama Kakou" (To Care for All) program that was planned for the region. But what they found surprised and even shocked some.

According to Staff Sgt. Danielle Primerano, a dental hygienist from Buffalo, N.Y., "If I would not have known we were in Hawaii, I would have guessed we were in El Salvador or Nicaragua. I have served there before on

humanitarian missions and this climate and atmosphere unfortunately reminded me of those trips. The need here really surprised me." The community of 22,000 lacks the basic medical and dental care services that most Americans take for granted. For the last 12 years there have been no dentists operating in the region and the local hospital, the Kauhuku Medical Center, has only 23 beds, 10 of which house long-term care patients. Their facilities are capable of only basic care. Any specialty care or surgery requires hours of driving over the island mountains to doctors in Honolulu.

Once on the ground, the 7202nd divided into three teams with three distinct missions.

Team one visited local schools and provided the students with medical, dental and vision screenings. Budget cuts have halted the schools' abilities to provide these services for students.

Additionally, athletic physicals and scoliosis exams were made available to all students. During the team's visits, they screened over 500 students, many of whom come from families who have little or no health insurance.

Ruth E. Holmberg, school principal at the Sunset Beach Elementary School, stated that the Soldiers and the program brought much needed services to the community and her students.

"It was a real wonderful thing for us (working with the Army Reserve), with budgets being cut all over the place. Whatever kind of partnerships we can put together is a great benefit for the school," she said. "The screenings also help bring potential problems to the surface and help us reemphasize some of the precautionary steps our parents need to take with their children."

Unit dentist Maj. Karen B. Fitzhugh indicated that the school visits came just





Sgt. Stephanie Ferraraccio, a dental hygienist with the Army Reserve's 7202th Medical Support Unit, examines Hope Moeai, a North Shore area resident during the free dental clinic hosted by the Kahuku Medical Center, in Kahuka, Hawaii.



Captains Dale K. Fitzke (left) and Wanda Harrel-Mitchell, 7202th Medical Support Unit, provide no-cost eye screening for North Shore area residents during the free medical health clinic at the BYU-Hawaii.



Staff Sgt. Danielle Primerano, a dental hygienist, 7202nd Medical Support Unit, examines Christopher Robertson, a North Shore area resident during the free dental clinic hosted by the Kahuku Medical Center, in Kahuka, Hawaii.

in time for some of the students. "We identified 13 students that had critical needs," she said. "We were able to refer them to the Hawaii Air National Guard immediately for follow-up treatment on their issues."

With the aid of the 7202nd, students were able to go home with referrals to state agencies that could provide low cost or no-cost treatment to fix the problems discovered during the school visits. Team two of the unit reopened the dental clinic at the medical center for anyone in need of dental services. Since the facilities have laid dormant for more than a decade they first had to repair some of the equipment. With the aid of the Air Guard and Schofield Army Barracks, the unit was able to obtain the parts they needed to put the clinic into operation.

Their services were advertised on flyers posted throughout the community. They offered exams, cleanings and fluoride sealant for all ages. They averaged 25 patients a day who, on average, had not had a dental screening in more than a decade. Residents and unit members alike were overjoyed by the program.

"This is what I joined the Army Reserve to do," said Fitzhugh, a resident of Suitland, Md. "We are getting good training helping good people in this community. We've seen a lot of patients who need fillings and some who have gum and bone disease. We were able to refer these residents to the right individuals to address their care needs," she added.

In addition to the dental staff of the 7202nd that reopened the closed clinic, another part of the second team worked side-by-side with the doctors and nurses of the Kuhuku Medical Center emergency room.

Working in two shifts, the unit's medical professionals examined patients, ordered X-rays and labs if needed, performed triage and developed treatment plans for the patients.

The final team worked with the Koolauloa Health and Wellness Center community outreach program going out to the beaches and parks seeking out area homeless residents and checking them for preventable illnesses. The outreach team treated 150 individuals, some as young as 2 years old. They treated everything from simple cuts to a maggot-infected foot that

was potentially life threatening. Five of the homeless they encountered were veterans, the youngest only 40. They referred him to a contact at the local VA to receive further health care and other military benefits.

If a resident required medical care beyond what was provided on site, the unit aided the individual in getting to the North Shore Health Clinic for free treatment.

For two short weeks, more than 500 people of this community were able to smile a little brighter because 44 Army Reserve Soldiers used their medical skills to better their lives and help their community; all with a giving spirit.

"This is a great mission," said Lt. Col. John Ferrerra, commander of the 7202nd.

"The Army Reserve draws its talent from the civilian sector, in communities around the country, especially in the medical field. This mission has enabled us to give back to the U.S. community as a way of saying 'thank you' for supporting us while we volunteered to serve our country," he added.

"My Soldiers are getting real world training while serving this community's medical needs." ■



# AR-RAP & EPI CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

Story and Photo By Master Sgt. Richard Lambert

2-75th AR-RAP Task Force PAO



Master Sgt. Ronnie Casebeer helps Sgt. 1st Class Brandie Mathias with AR-RAP at the Army Reserve Medical Command, Pinellas Park, Fla.

**MORE THAN** signing enlistment contracts, the members of the Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program (AR-RAP) Task Force are dynamically involved with units, employers and their communities. Dedicated to the health of the Army's manpower, they travel nationwide working to create a network of grassroots recruiters.

"My name is Master Sgt. Ronnie Casebeer with the AR-RAP Task Force, and my last name is a great ice-breaker," said Casebeer. "I started last November and I had to learn the AR-RAP program, Defense Travel System, Employer Partnership Initiative (EPI) and how to present both effectively."

Casebeer creates lines of contact and communication with the units to build the Recruiter Assistant (RA) network. When he talks to the units about the program, he lets them know how they are doing as far as the participation or number of people in the program.

"I come loaded with PowerPoint presentations, prepared to help them with strength management," said Casebeer. "I know their assigned strength and their required strength before I walk in the door, so I can tailor my presentation to their needs."

Recruiting Assistants are the field Soldiers that are bringing new Soldiers into the fold through AR-RAP, according to Casebeer. In essence, the unit members

and their leadership create their own self-help program. They are doing the heavy lifting for the program; they are the program.

"Like a self-help program on steroids, it creates a network of people where one person influences two people and they in turn influence four more," Casebeer said. "My job is to provide tools and guidance to the units to help them achieve their recruiting goals."

"I believe in the program I promote; I am proud of being a Soldier. I like bringing new people on the team into my family, the Army Family. An additional tool I have to help Soldiers is the Employer Partnership Initiative," said Casebeer.

EPI is a unique alliance between the Army Reserve and civilian employers. Like making a five-star meal with only the best ingredients, the EPI program blends Soldiers' civilian and military skills into a recipe for success, Casebeer said.

"When I heard about the EPI program I was ecstatic, because the light bulb had gone off in someone else's head. Before I became a Soldier, I was an employer and understood the validity of prior service people working for me," said Casebeer. "Hiring the civilian versus the Soldier was like going from black and white to color, relative to the quality of the employee I hired."

"In light of the current economic joblessness situation, it is another way to help the Soldier," said Casebeer.

AR-RAP Task Force members have been advocating EPI to units as an added benefit for retention and to help Soldiers who need a job, according to Casebeer.

"Once I explain what the EPI program is, the units get very excited because they have Soldiers out of work," said Casebeer. "AR-RAP is what I was hired for, and the EPI gets me excited about both programs and the units that I visit." ■

## TOP REGIONAL RECRUITING ASSISTANTS

APRIL TO JUNE 2009

### REGION 1

Pvt. 2 Tracy Clark  
Cheektowaga, N.Y.

### REGION 2

Pvt. 2 Joshua Martz  
Brookville, Pa.

### REGION 3

Sgt. 1st Class  
Jonathan Judy  
Romney, W. Va.

### REGION 4

Pvt. 1 Cory  
Drummond  
Battleboro, N.C.

### REGION 5

Pfc. Alfred Gee  
Cabo Rojo, PR

### REGION 6

Pvt. 2 Andrea  
Yarbrough  
Meridian, Miss.

### REGION 7

Pvt. 1 Luke Petersen  
Wendell, Idaho

### REGION 8

Pfc. Lucas Schafroth  
Winterset, Iowa

### REGION 9

Pvt. 2 Cassie Brown  
Hutchinson, Kan.

### REGION 10

Pfc. Daniel Mcgough  
Ypsilanti, Mich.

### REGION 11

Sgt. James Chappell  
Norco, Calif.

### REGION 12

Pfc. Bobby Smith  
Tulsa, Okla.





Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty jokes with 143rd ESC acting first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Sharlene Downer and Sgt. Maj. Jose Licea prior to the start of the county commission meeting where civic leaders issued a proclamation recognizing 2009 as "The Year of the NCO" in Orange County, Fla.

## Mayor, Commissioners Recognize "The Year of the NCO"

Story and Photo By Capt. Steve Alvarez

143rd Sustainment Command

**ORLANDO, Fla.** — The "Army's backbone" was recognized when NCOs from the 143rd Sustainment Command were lauded by Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty and county commissioners. The civic leaders issued a proclamation recognizing 2009 as "The Year of the NCO" in Orange County, Fla.

"At the front of every Army mission in the United States or overseas, you'll find a non-commissioned officer," Crotty said echoing Army Secretary Pete Geren's 2008 remarks.

Crotty, himself a former Army Reserve Soldier once assigned to the 143rd, read a list of 10 NCOs who attended the proclamation presentation and asked that they stand and be recognized.

The Soldiers received a long applause from those at the meeting prompting Crotty to joke, "I think they like you."

The proclamation, in part, recognized the NCO corps as Soldiers who have led from the front since 1775.

"By virtue of the authority vested in me as Orange County mayor, and in solidarity with the Secretary of the Army, do hereby proclaim the year 2009 as "The Year of the NCO" in Orange County, Florida, and hereby resolve that the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps be saluted, honored, and recognized for their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation." ❖





Spc. Michael Schraff, left, 298th Maintenance Co., Altoona, Penn., and Staff Sgt. Amos Finch, 282nd Quartermaster Co., Montgomery, Ala., attended a week-long advanced culinary training course at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Tucker, Ga. They were selected by their respective Philip A. Connelly Excellence in Army Food Service, Army Reserve Field Kitchen category winning teams.



Winners of the 2009 Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service and runner-up team members listen to Chef Alan Knight explain the process to properly smoking meats at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.



# SOLDIER Chefs

## RECEIVE ADVANCED TRAINING

Story and  
Photos By  
**Timothy L. Hale**  
Army Reserve  
Public Affairs

**ATLANTA** — The terms “mise en place” and “Escoffier” are not terms that most Soldiers hear in conjunction with their military duties. But for two Army Reserve culinarians, they learned not only how to pronounce these words but how to put them into action.

Staff Sgt. Amos Finch, 282nd Quartermaster Co., Montgomery, Ala., and Spc. Michael Schraff, 298th Maintenance Co., Altoona, Pa., were both at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Tucker, Ga., March 25-31, for an advanced culinary course.

Their attendance was a reward for each of their units being honored with the 2009 Philip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service – Field Kitchen Category.

In comparing the Army students to the regular student population, Todd Kazenske, an executive chef at Le Cordon Bleu, said “the Army students are very well trained and very well disciplined and come with a lot of ethics behind them. They came in very professional, very polite and very excited to be here for the training. I think for what they are learning and how they are presenting themselves is phenomenal.”





Chef Alan Knight shows Spc. Michael Schraff how to properly cook asparagus at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

For Finch, this was his first time attending an advanced culinary school and his first time entering the Connelly competition.

As the unit mess sergeant, his five-person team regularly serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, five days a week, to upwards of 200 other Soldiers who are going through Soldier Readiness Processing.

"One of the things I've learned this week is how to use simple foods to create a good meal," Finch said. By doing so, he can cut unit cost without sacrificing the quality of the food.

Schraff said one of the things he learned that he can take back to his unit was how to make spring rolls. "I had never done that before. It was pretty interesting."



Kazenske said the curriculum was divided into a number of areas to include: healthy cuisine, Asian/European cuisine, baking and pastry, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, ice carving, and fruit and vegetable carving. At the end of the course, the students prepared a five course meal for 30 people.

"It was an honor for us to do this," Executive Chef Alan Knight said. "There was a line of chefs who wanted to do this. We all know the sacrifice they give for us...we can't repay them enough. Thank goodness I was lucky enough to be here to help."

Each year, the Army recognizes the best in food service among the active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard. The Reserve and Guard compete in field kitchen only while the active component participates in small and large garrison as well as field kitchen. Five winning teams and five runner-up teams are selected after months of on-site evaluations of the finalists around the world.

The winning and runner-up teams each select one member to attend the advanced culinary training. Later in the week, each of the teams is honored at a military food service awards ceremony co-sponsored by the Army Center for Excellence and Subsistence, Fort Lee, Va. and the International Food Service Executives Association. ❖

## CULINARY DEFINITIONS

**MISE EN PLACE** A French phrase defined by the Culinary Institute of America as "everything in place," as in set up. It is used in professional kitchens to refer to the ingredients, such as cuts of meat, relishes, sauces, par-cooked items, spices, freshly chopped vegetables, and other components that a cook requires for the menu items that they expect to prepare during their shift.

**GEORGES AUGUSTE ESCOFFIER** (Oct. 28, 1846 - Feb. 12, 1935) was a French chef, restaurateur and culinary writer who popularized and updated traditional French cooking methods. He is a near-legendary figure among chefs and gourmets, and was one of the most important leaders in the development of modern French cuisine.



# SOLDIER SHOW *Highlights Diversity*

By Staff Sgt. Anne W. Lewis

80th Training Command

**TINY WITH A BIG VOICE.** *That's what some folks call Sgt. Dawn Florence, a Soldier with the 80th Training Command who recently landed a gig with the Morale Welfare Recreation's Army Soldier Show.*



PHOTO BY PAUL ADAMS

Ever since she can remember Florence has been singing.

"I was singing when I was learning to talk," she said. "When the other kids were riding their bikes, I would be singing with my toy microphone and my little boom box on our porch."

After spending her first five years on active duty, Florence joined the Army Reserve in 2007. She has sent in audition tapes to the show every year since 2003. Florence said she made her singing video in the day room at Fort Jackson, S.C. while she was in Human Resources school in December 2008.

At the follow-up live audition at Fort Belvoir, Va., her parents came to support her. She quickly found out that all the glitz and glamour of being on stage truly take an enormous amount of hard work. Her first 10 days at Fort Belvoir proved to be mentally and physically challenging.

"From morning until night, we're doing movements, such as dancing, stretching, Pilates, and then choreography, scene transitions and vocal training," said Florence.

"Initially, the judges and crew wanted to see how well and how quickly we could pick up new genres, like country, pop, rhythm and blues, rock, and how quickly we could memorize lyrics and



Sgt. Dawn Florence's official photo

speaking lines," she said. "They also wanted to see how efficiently we could come together as one team."

Probably one of the best aspects of the show, she explained, is the "amazing variety of the performers; their talents are just fantastic, and everyone's different cultures make it so much better."

This year's Soldier Show highlights "The Year of the NCO" and showcases a new theme each month. In April, for example, the show's focus was diversity, in support of the U.S. Army's "Celebrate Diversity" theme.

The ethnic diversity of the performers includes German, Irish, African American, St. Croix, and Hispanic. She said that, as in any other Army training environment, the mix of different cultures and diversity of talents has created a "wonderful learning experience; we've become very close, and I think that will show when we're on stage."

After five years of auditioning, Florence believes her experiences have helped her become a better NCO.

"Making it the first time would have been great," she said. "But the personal and professional rewards of disciplining myself to not give up — I think that helped me become a better NCO."

The show began touring on April 24, 2009 and will conclude on Nov. 8, 2009. ☒

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
on the performance schedule,  
go to [www.armymwr.com/  
portal/recreation/entertainment/  
armysoldiershow](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/armysoldiershow)

go

Sgt. Dawn Florence performs in the 2009 Soldier Show wearing a costume inspired by the movie, "Slumdog Millionaire."



# DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

» STAFF SGT JOSHUA MARSHALL «

By Melissa Russell  
Public Affairs Specialist

FORT EUSTIS, Va. —

**Drill sergeants set the tone for an entire military career of the more than 400,000 recruits who undergo initial entry training each year.**

Command officials describe drill sergeants as “top-quality, professional noncommissioned officers from virtually all branches of the Army.” Their role is to turn citizens into Soldiers. The drill sergeant plays a critical role in the success of this training and, therefore, has a direct impact on the readiness of the entire Army.

The 2009 Drill Sergeant of the Year competitors await the results of the week-long event.



**LEFT AND RIGHT:**  
Staff Sgt Joshua Marshall representing the U.S. Army Reserve 95th Division instructs privates on how to properly stack and take arms.



PHOTOS BY CARROLL KIM



# teaching A JOB **NOT** many want.

NCOs  
receive  
training in  
mortuary  
affairs.

Story and Photos By  
Staff Sgt. Anne W. Lewis  
80th Training Command



I know this is difficult work to do. But when we know what we're doing is a service for those who gave their lives for their country, it's overwhelming, knowing that we're giving them their final respect. - Master Sgt. Dennis Acevedo

LEFT: A mortuary affairs specialist training student scrubs the "casualty" in the decontamination tent. The "casualty" is then checked with a special wand to ensure it is free of all nuclear, biological or chemical debris. RIGHT: Soldiers prepare to move the "casualty" along a conveyor belt during the Mortuary Affairs Specialist training.

**FORT LEE, Va.** — Noncommissioned Officers from across the states and Puerto Rico recently conducted mortuary affairs training. What's unique about this training is that the 5th Brigade, 94th Division, of the 80th Training Command, headquartered in Richmond, Va., is the only unit in the Army Reserve that teaches this military occupational specialty (MOS) for reclassification, Basic NCO and Advanced NCO Courses.

Headquartered in Puerto Nuevo, Puerto Rico, the 5th brigade is also the only multi-functional school under the 80th, providing training for 31 military occupational specialties.

Staff Sgt. Jorge Ramos, instructor for the Mortuary Affairs Specialist course (92M), explained that this training is performed usually only twice a year because there is not much of a demand for Soldiers choosing this MOS.

"To many people, this MOS is not very desirable," said Ramos. "Not a whole lot of people want to deal with the deceased. I have nine years of 92M experience, and I'm very proud to do this work."

The collection point at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait serves as the main collection point in theatre for Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa. Casualties are initially brought to hospitals or unit collection points that are usually closest to where the bodies are picked up and then decontaminated. Then they are evacuated to theatre mortuary affairs collection points, decontaminated again, placed in a casket with an American flag draped over it and brought to Dover, Del. According to 92M course manager Master Sgt. Dennis Acevedo, their goal is 24 hours: from the time they receive the body to the arrival time in Dover.

"We train not only for combat situations but also for operations other than war,"

explained Acevedo. "We could be called at any time by local authorities if it comes to a point where we have service members dying in noncombat-related incidents or in mass casualty situations, to assist them in decontamination."

"It is U.S. policy to care for our fallen; that no one will be left behind," said Acevedo. "The work we do to return our brave Soldiers' remains home to their Families is a very gratifying experience. I know this is difficult work to do. But when we know what we're doing is a service for those who gave their lives for their country, it's overwhelming, knowing that we're giving them their final respect. When we see the Families and how much they appreciate what we do, it's an incredible feeling." ❏



# NCOs TRAIN IN THE MUD

By Staff Sgt. Anne W. Lewis  
80th Training Command

Students Spc. Sean Wheeler, left and Pfc. Ovaddie Sanchez work together to remove a vehicle from a murky waterhole.

**Imagine** you are on a mission where you are traveling in a wheeled vehicle, and you get stuck in the mud. **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?**

**F**ORT MCCOY, Wis. — If you or one of your crew has completed the Wheeled Recovery Mechanic Course (63B), you would know exactly what to do. This is what Master Sgt. Andrew Bradford, chief instructor of the Regional Training Site-Maintenance (RTS-M), at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., and other NCO instructors teach Soldiers who attend the 63B military occupational specialty (MOS) class.

Bradford and his fellow NCO instructors are great examples of leadership in training. For the past four years, Bradford has taught the Wheeled Recovery Mechanic Course at the RTS-M, which falls under the 80th Training Command, headquartered in Richmond, Va. He said scheduling these courses depends largely on the weather. During the winter months in Pennsylvania the safety risk increases with the higher probability of hypothermia. Classes—five or six each year—are scheduled during the warmer months. If Soldiers choose this course as an additional skill identifier, the ASI they receive is H8.

The two-week course consists of 11 modules with each class usually including 12 Soldiers. The students learn oxyacetylene-cutting techniques, basic rigging methods and mathematical calculations, and then move outdoors for the real thing. One of the most critical skills they learn is calculating the means of extracting vehicles. Bradford explained that the student determines the type of equipment needed based on the amount of resistance, meaning how deep the vehicle is stuck in the earth. The outside hands-on training includes Preventive Maintenance

Checks and Services, driving vehicles, operating booms and cranes, and operating winches. Towing a disabled vehicle, recovering a mired vehicle and recovering an overturned vehicle are the culmination of all previous training.

Safety is the first priority. Man-made contained water holes are in place in case an overturned vehicle leaks out fuel as well as for environmental reasons. Also, for safety reasons, there is a 1-4 instructor to student ratio.

“We’ve never had a vehicle spill,” said Bradford. “This is mainly because of our outstanding NCO leadership. There’s obviously a high risk involved with this type of training. The NCOs here use the composite risk process, and the direct result is that no one has been seriously injured in the past four years that I’ve been instructing here.”

The purpose of this training is two-fold: to be battle ready and to share this training with others. “We want them to take away from this the ability to apply battle focused training to survive when they’re deployed,” said Bradford. “We also teach the need for them to share their training with their Soldiers back at their unit, with those who cannot come to this training.”

“In Iraq, convoy missions are a high priority,” he continued. “Soldiers who have these skills are saving lives. When our students are finished and leave our school house, we have to be certain their training is effective, because it’s very likely those same Soldiers will be heading out to theatre.” ■



**2009  
ARMY  
RESERVE**

# BEST ★

Congratulations to **STAFF SGT. AARON D. BUTLER**, ARMEDCOM and **SPC. SHILOH BECHER**, 416th Theater Engineer Command, the 2009 Army Reserve NCO and Soldier of the Year “Best Warriors”. Staff Sgt. Butler and Spc. Becher will represent the Army Reserve at the 2009 Department of the Army NCO and Soldier of the Year “Best Warrior” Competition at Fort Lee, Va. Sept. 28 - Oct. 2. To see images and stories from this year’s Army Reserve competition visit us on the Worldwide Web at: [www.bestwarrior.wordpress.com](http://www.bestwarrior.wordpress.com). The complete story will be in the Fall issue of the Warrior-Citizen.

## RESERVE NCOS, SOLDIERS

By Timothy L. Hale  
Army Reserve Public Affairs

**NCO AND SOLDIERS** from across the Army Reserve tested their mental and physical stamina in their respective commands for the chance to compete in the 2009 Army Reserve “Best Warrior” Competition. The Reserve Command competition took place at Fort McCoy, Wis. July 13-17.

The Warriors faced rigorous tests that challenged their Soldier skills, qualities and abilities across the board. Throughout the multiple competitions held across the United States, the Warriors took the Army Physical Fitness Test, written examinations on general military topics, weapons qualification, negotiating day and night Urban Warfighting Orienteering courses, and evaluation in a number of critical Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. ☒





# WARRIORS



★ STAFF SGT. AARON D. BUTLER ★



★ SPC. SHILOH BECHER ★

## PREPARE FOR THE COMPETITION



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sgt. Jeffrey Alexander, 982nd Combat Camera Company, simulates using an AT4 during the Warrior Tasks Training portion of the 359th Signal Brigade's Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Capt. Michelle Lunato.

A Soldier from the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command creeps by an open window while an "insurgent" stands guard with a rocket propelled grenade during military operations in urban terrain as part of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command's Best Warrior Competition at Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif. Photo by 1st Lt. Kalen Smith.

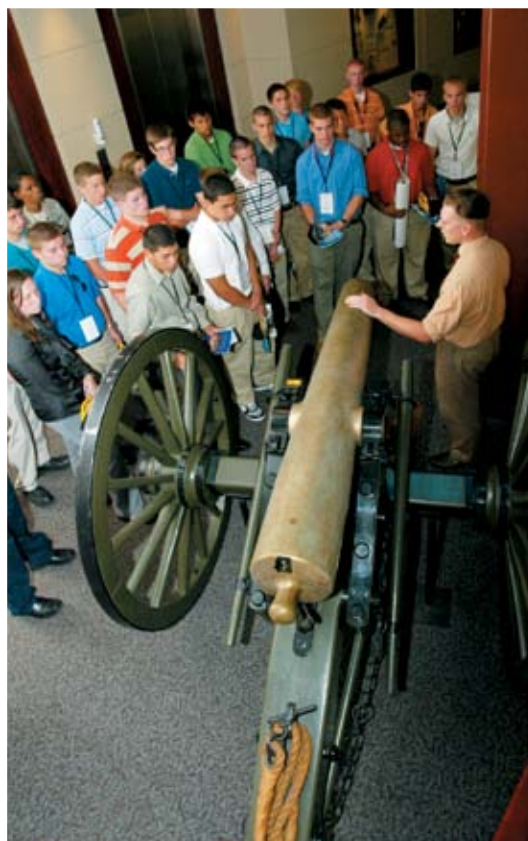
Staff Sgt. Devin Hackler, 84th Training Command, knocks out sit-ups during the Army Physical Fitness test during the command's qualifier for 2009 Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Farley.



# USARC Hosts FUTURE LEADERS

By Ann Brown

Army Reserve Public Affairs



PAUL ADAMS

LeadAmerica students get a history lesson from the USARC Museum Curator Christopher Ruff. The cannon is a piece of local Civil War history and was captured in the Battle of Atlanta in 1864. It is significant because it was made at the Macon Arsenal in Macon, Ga.

**FORT MCPHERSON, Ga.** — Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command hosted more than 150 young leaders from across the country this July. The students attended a youth leadership conference hosted by LeadAmerica at the Military College of Georgia at North Georgia College and State University.

LeadAmerica is one of the nation's premier youth leadership organizations. Each year the organization hosts invitational conferences at universities throughout the United States and internationally.

“Our mission at LeadAmerica is to inspire and empower young people to achieve their full potential and to instill in them a sense of purpose, integrity, self confidence and personal responsibility.”

— LT. COL. (RET.) PHILIP R. MCCHESENEY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

“Our mission at LeadAmerica is to inspire and empower young people to achieve their full potential and to instill in them a sense of purpose, integrity, self confidence and personal responsibility,” said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Philip R. McChesney, director of operations. “I learned a lot about leadership through similar activities as a teen as well as while serving in the Army. I believe that organizations like LeadAmerica offer experiences that are key to the leadership development, coaching and mentoring of our next generation of leaders.”

Other conferences include topics such as Medicine & Healthcare, the National Leadership Summit, National Security & Counter Intelligence and Engineering & Robotics. Most students who participate in these conferences are outstanding high school and middle school students. They are recommended by teachers or guidance counselors, but parents may also nominate their children as long as they meet scholastic requirements, have a teacher recommendation and demonstrate leadership potential.

The Defense and Military Strategy: The Junior War College instills leadership values, skills and attitudes while focusing on an academic career field of interest. The Junior War College participants are introduced to possible careers within the U.S. military branches of service while exploring what it means to be a leader within a military context.

Participants also visited U.S. Forces Command and U.S. Army Central headquarters and heard from various senior leaders. 🏠

go

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
to learn more about  
LeadAmerica, visit:  
[www.lead-america.org](http://www.lead-america.org).





# Swings

## FOR SADR CITY

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Multi-National Division - Baghdad



**TOP:** Seattle native, Staff Sgt. Matthew Bissell, a 70th Regional Readiness Command Army Reserve civil affairs team sergeant assigned to the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, takes a moment during a project assessment to smile with Iraqi children at a recently finished playground in Sadr City. **LEFT:** Iraqi Army Pvt. Abass Fadal Juwad, an infantryman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 44th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, takes a moment to play with some Iraqi children while on patrol with the Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. at a Coalition Forces funded playground in Sadr City.

**BAGHDAD** — Children giggle and shriek with glee on freshly painted red, purple, orange and yellow swings as American Soldiers push them higher and higher into the air. This could be a park anywhere in the world, except it's not. It's a recently completed playground in Sadr City, funded by Coalition forces.

"This is a tangible way for people to see normalcy," said Master Sgt. Robert LaTour, a 70th Regional Readiness Command Army Reserve civil affairs team leader from Tacoma, Wash., assigned to the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to 1st Cavalry Division. "To have a park next door that people see each and every day is a reminder that things are getting back to normal."

The park, tentatively named Muhalla 518 Family Park, was built by Iraqi contractors and workers from the local community. The project cost \$237,000 and took close collaboration between Coalition Forces (CF) and the local government to complete it in about a month-and-a-half.

"This is one of the first projects that Coalition Forces and local government got together and decided on the location and what it would look like," said LaTour. "It was a really big step in a cooperative effort between the Iraqi Government and Coalition Forces in Sadr City."

According to LaTour, these types of projects show that the government and CF really care about the community and the people of Iraq.

"It gives [Iraqi children] a safe place to play with gates completely secure so parents can let their kids run free inside without having to worry about them," added LaTour as children ran from swings to slides to merry-go-rounds.

The CF funded park, right off a main thoroughfare, also brought money into the community because the Iraqi contractor hired men from the local neighborhood, building a sense of ownership and community pride, added LaTour.

"If you own something, if you believe it's yours, you're going to treat it better," said LaTour. "On projects like this in the community, the goal is for them to take ownership in the community and not let the extremists come in."

Projects like this have a direct connection with the security situation here, added Staff Sgt. Matthew Bissell, a 70th RRC Army Reserve civil affairs team sergeant.

"As security improves, [Iraqis] also want to see other things improve in their daily life," said Bissell, a native of Seattle, while children climb all over him as he kneels in the playground. "The kids seem really happy because the park was unlocked and they could swing on their swings." ❧



LIB



Story and Photo Illustration by Timothy L. Hale

Army Reserve Public Affairs

**LAKELAND, Fla.** — On a quiet suburban street, an American flag waves proudly from the top of a weather-beaten pole. The moss-covered oaks and palm trees shelter the red brick home from the bustle of the city just a few blocks away.

Other than the flag, there is nothing

remarkably noticeable that makes this home any different from others in the neighborhood.

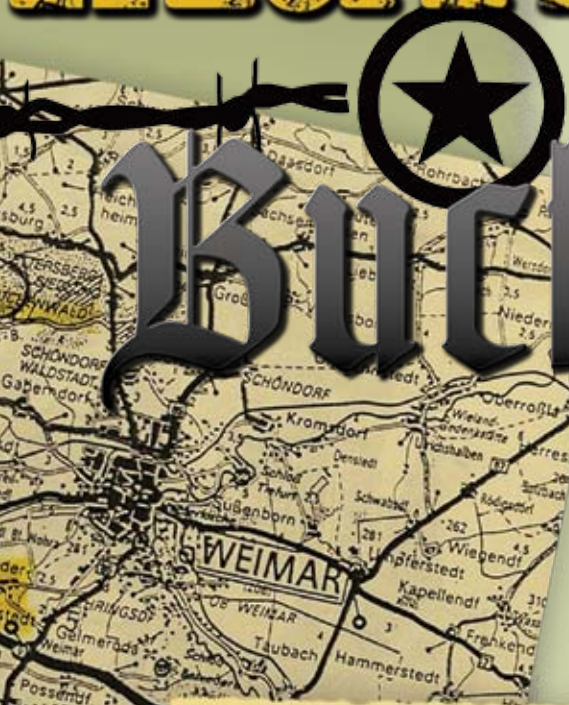
However, there is a difference. You see, inside lives a quiet and unassuming American hero. But he'll never tell you that. "I raise the flag every morning and take it down in the evening," said Gerald

Virgil Myers. Myers, now 91-years-old, walks with the gait of someone half his age. Behind his hazel-brown eyes and warm smile images of combat and the other horrors of war are forever etched into his memory.



# ERRATING

# Buchenwald



Legion of Honor and proudly holds one of 12 Patton medals presented by the city of Ettlebrück, Luxembourg.

But these awards pale in comparison to the three days in April 1945 that he spent in eastern Germany in the waning days of the war.

A member of Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, Myers and his company arrived in Weimar on April 12, 1945.

"We came to Weimar by truck from Erfurt," Myers recalled. "They let us out of the trucks outside the city limits and we marched into downtown Weimar, down the main street of town. As we were walking downtown the elderly people would turn their backs to (us) Soldiers and just face the walls of the houses. They wouldn't look at us. But the kids all came out and were walking among us and wanted gum and chocolate ... they were just ordinary kids."

After securing the city and the railhead, the Soldiers of Co. G. had all civilians turn in any weapons and pile them in front of city hall the next morning.

"I remember that they piled them up in two piles right in the city square. And we had more than could be hauled away in a truck piled up in these piles." Myers said the Soldiers "poured gasoline all over the weapons and burned them all" in front of the civilians.

It wasn't until later that day, April 13th, that Myers and two members of his

unit would venture out of Weimar to the northwest where they would make a grisly discovery.

After seeing civilians in "striped uniforms" wandering through town, his company commander, Capt. Mike Damkowitz, told Myers, Sgt. Percy Smith and jeep driver, John Smith, to see where they were coming from.

"We asked the civilians but they said they didn't know where they're coming from. Well, we know that was a lie."

Myers said that eventually, some of the children in Weimar pointed north and so that was the direction they drove.

"We were going up a hill, around a lane, up the hill, and came upon Buchenwald from the back gate. We didn't know at that time that it was a back gate. Along the fence these guys, some of them six feet tall, were so thin that they could hardly stand and they were just in a stupor. They'd look at you but they couldn't see you. They were just so thin that you couldn't believe that people could be walking around and still be so thin."

After stopping along the fence, Myers said Percy Smith walked up and asked if anyone spoke English. One of the prisoners said something they couldn't understand and shuffled off to a barracks. He soon returned with another prisoner.

"He came back with a little fellow that was just real slim and small, like 5'4". This fellow said, 'Are you looking for someone (who) can speak English?'"

"Percy said, 'Yes. We want to know what this place is.'"

"The prisoner said, 'I am formerly from Lithuania and I've been here four years. This is a labor camp. We furnish labor for



Even so, he frequently returns to the battlefields of Europe where he earned a Purple Heart in the Battle of the Bulge, a Bronze Star and later a Silver Star for capturing 56 Germans without firing a single shot.

The Forest City, Mo. native has also been honored as an honorary citizen of Luxembourg, presented the French



other camps that provide men that work in war plants so the German soldiers can go to the army and we take their place’.”

“But,” he said, ‘we don’t really do too much work because so many of them are so sick and so thin that they can hardly work’.”

Myers said that he and the other Soldiers entered the camp and counted 30 multi-story barracks but didn’t venture too far inside the camp. The Lithuanian man told them the SS had pulled out the night before and left the prisoners to fend for themselves, leaving only leftover potato peelings for them to eat.

“We took the peelings and we washed them and we are making a soup,” Myers said the prisoner told them. “He said, ‘we went out and got green grass and mixed it with the potato peelings and that’s all we’ve had to eat for two days’.”

The American Soldiers observed rows of bodies “laying in front of the barracks just like sticks of wood,” Myers said.

“We looked and he (Percy) said, ‘I can’t believe that any place like this could be here in this beautiful country’. We drive up there and all of this you see ... it boggles your mind. You couldn’t believe that all of this horror could be in such a beautiful place. We just couldn’t believe at first what we were seeing.”

After about 30 minutes at Buchenwald, the trio reported their observations back to Damkowitz in Weimar. Myers said the regiment sent trucks filled with medics, food and clothing to the camp.

Myers and five squad members from Company G stayed in Weimar for another day and a half while the rest of the unit moved out to Gera.

“We were assigned to go around with a jeep and pick up these fellows that were stragglers and take them back out to the camp for medical treatment and food,” Myers said.

Myers recalled one straggler in town came out of a house eating a potato “just famishly.” He said the prisoner took a couple of steps towards their jeep and collapsed.

“We picked him up, put him in the jeep, took him out to the camp,” Myers said. “The medics out there said he

was probably so starved that the starch and sugars in that potato, his body just couldn’t take that amount of food or energy at that time. I never knew what happened to him after that.”

Over 60 years later, Myers said, “I can still see two guys that were leaning against a fence and they were just looking. When we drove up their expression never changed, they never moved, even when the guy came out and talked to us, these two guys stood there and never ever moved and never said a word.”

Myers, who has returned to Buchenwald and Weimar numerous times since the war ended, estimated the camp to cover about 400 acres. The Lithuanian man told Myers and the others there were about 26,000 prisoners at Buchenwald when the Americans arrived. German records would later show over 56,000 prisoners died there. ✱

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** To read the entire transcript to include recollections from his unit’s battles in France, Luxembourg and Germany, visit [www.armyreserve.army.mil/buchenwald](http://www.armyreserve.army.mil/buchenwald).





# HELMETS <sup>TO</sup> HARDHATS

JOHN GYOVAL



## New Partnership Launched by USAR

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief, Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director, Army National Guard and Darrell Roberts, executive director, Helmets to Hardhats, sign an Employer Partnership agreement on July 2, 2009 at the Pentagon.

By Maj. Matt Benner  
Army Reserve Communications

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Army Reserve launched a partnership on July 2, 2009 with Helmets to Hardhats, a nonprofit program that connects America's military service members with quality career opportunities in the building and construction trades, as part of the Army Reserve Employer Partnership Initiative (EPI). For the first time since EPI's inception, the Army National Guard will also benefit from this partnership. This joint venture will enable each organization to recruit highly-skilled employees, support military Families and contribute to a stronger national economy.

"I'm pleased to begin this partnership with Helmets to Hardhats, an organization that has been a great friend to the military. I look forward to collaborating with our newest valued partner to achieve mutual goals to attract, develop and retain a quality workforce," said Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief, Army Reserve. "This is a

natural partnership because Army Reserve Soldiers are well trained and have the appropriate skill set for the building and construction industry."

Through this partnership, both Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers will gain opportunities for employment in the construction industry and the chance to learn a skilled trade through federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. The Army Reserve, National Guard and Helmets to Hardhats will work together to recruit and train qualified Soldier candidates.

EPI establishes a process for employers and the Army Reserve to secure and share the talents of trained professionals. Partners, such as Helmets to Hardhats, benefit by receiving greater access to men and women with Army values, knowledge and proven leadership skills.

"Helmets to Hardhats is excited to have this opportunity to help bring the Army Reserve, the National Guard, the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, America's Building Trades Unions and the nation's leading construction contractor associations together in support of America's Citizen Soldiers and their Families," said Darrell Roberts, Executive Director, Helmets to Hardhats. This free, nonprofit program connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military members with quality career training and employment opportunities in the construction industry.

Since its inception in April 2008, the EPI has joined forces with over 400 public and private employers, including Fortune 500 corporations, state agencies, police departments and medical facilities, in order to secure job stability for America's Soldiers and Veterans. ■





A crowd of well-wishers wave farewell as the unit's bus departs the Army Reserve center in Greensburg, Pa. The 20 soldiers from the 14th Quartermaster Co. represent the unit's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Platoon Dispatched on Second Deployment to Iraq



Story and Photos By Jack Gordon

Chief of Operations | Public Affairs 99th Regional Support Command/West

**GREENBURG, Pa.** — Hundreds of friends and Family members gathered to ensure the Soldiers who departed for service in Iraq know they are appreciated – without quarter or question.



**“THE UNIT (14TH QUARTERMASTER Company)** has already served one tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” said Col. Jack Skelly, commander, 316th Sustainment Command Expeditionary (ESC), the 14th’s higher headquarters in Corapolis, Pa. “It mobilized, deployed, and successfully conducted its water purification mission overseas and safely returned. Now this platoon has been called to perform that same mission – I have no doubt that you will too, serve successfully and with honor.”

The Soldiers enjoyed a morning breakfast at a nearby school with their Families before friends and other community supporters arrived to send the unit off in style. Escorts included area fire companies, local and state police and veterans who ride in motorcycle clubs in support of America’s troops.

The 20 Soldiers traveled by bus to Camp Atterbury, Ind. for further individual and collective training before deploying to the Middle East.

As the time to depart drew closer, smiles turned to tears – departures that represent more than a year-long separation of Army Reserve Soldiers from their Families, friends and employers are always emotional and this parting was no different.

“Our thoughts and our prayers go with you, and will remain with you and your Families until we see you here in one year,” said John Spizzo, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, Southwestern Pa. Spizzo was among dozens of military and civilian dignitaries who were at the center in a show of support for the Soldiers.

Only 50 meters distant stands a bronze and granite monument dedicated to the Soldiers of the 14th Qm. Co. who were killed and wounded in a Scud Missile attack in the final hours of Operation Desert Storm before cessation of hostilities in 1990.

The unit suffered 13 KIAs and 43 WIAs in the single most devastating attack of the conflict that took a total of 28 killed and 99 wounded when the Scud hit a transient barracks facility in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Given such sacrifice, Skelly made one remark that was especially poignant.

“As our military operations continue, I ask each of you here to remember these Soldiers and their Families as they are

serving on behalf of the collective safety and security of the United States of America, and on behalf of each one of us. They have volunteered to defend our

nation,” Skelly said, “and they have volunteered to serve for the greater cause. I say to you now – that cause ... is you.” ✱



Makayla Teets, attending the ceremony in support of her uncle, is overcome with emotion as the Soldiers depart.





**TOP:** Spc. Joshua White, automation logistics specialist, 342nd Chemical Company, is showered off by a North Chicago firefighter as a decontamination step in a simulated chemical attack at North Chicago High School.

**MIDDLE:** Sgt. 1st Class George W. Pruitt, nuclear biological chemical specialist, 379th Chemical Company, helps assemble the decontamination tents in the back of North Chicago High School.

**BOTTOM:** Pfc. Dustin J. Troyer, generator technician, 342nd Chemical Company, is "apprehended" by detective Laracuente of the North Chicago SWAT team after he mock-attacked North Chicago High School with mustard gas.

# RESERVE UNITS TEST SKILLS IN SIMULATED EMERGENCY

**Hundreds of injured high school students cry for help. City police and fire department sirens wail. A SWAT team hunts for the attacker who released biological toxin. Army Reserve Soldiers begin an initial Hazmat entry. In one morning, a community is in crisis, and scared.**

**NORTH CHICAGO, Ill.** — This was the scene on March 27, 2009, when the city of North Chicago hosted an emergency-response exercise with U.S. Army Reserve chemical units at North Chicago High School.


The simulated attack, named Blue Fire III, allowed more than 10 community agencies to practice their coordination with Reserve Soldiers.

"This synchronization is critical in a large-scale terrorist attack," said Lt. Col. Leslie M. Dillard, chief of Homeland Defense, 335th Signal Command.

"What you have to understand about homeland defense is that we don't do it by ourselves. We interact with other community agencies."



Story and Photos By  
Capt. Michelle Lunato  
359th Signal Brigade



Sgt. Alicia Flores, entry team member, 379th Chemical Company, photographs the “crime” scene at North Chicago High School during a mock chemical attack that tested city agencies and the U.S. Army Reserve’s ability to work together in a crisis.

The “multi-agency” exercise not only helped the Army Reserve, but the city as well, said Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr. “This ensures that we, as public servants, can effectively serve the community in a time of crisis.”

With more than 150 people involved in the simulated attack, efficient communication and coordination were essential to all the players, whether they were Soldier or civilian.

“Since September 11th, it is critical for all homeland defense agencies to know what to do in a mass causality emergency,” said firefighter Douglas Winston, North Chicago Fire Department. “It is better to practice for the Super Bowl than just next week’s game.”

Blue Fire III, was not exactly the Super Bowl for the chemical Soldiers, but an

important playoff to get there, said Maj. Richard D. Giles II, current operations officer, U.S. Army Reserve Command. “This is a small segment of a really big operation.”

As one of three units in the entire U.S. Army Reserve selected as a Ready Response Reserve Unit (R3U), the 342nd Chemical Company (BIDS-Biological Integrated Detection System) was not only training, but being evaluated on their ability to deploy to an emergency.

Typically in an attack, local and state authorities would arrive on the scene first. Reserve Soldiers in the R3U pro-program would be the federal “first responders,” said Giles.

Evaluation of the pilot program, R3U, is important to homeland defense, said Lt. Col. Frank Nieves, chief Current

Operations Branch, U.S. Army Reserve Command. “We want to show that we can call up a unit within 72 hours, get them to the Reserve unit, get them ready and get them out the door with no notice.”

This quicker ability to support communities with federal aid demonstrates “new ways to utilize Reserve capabilities,” said Giles.

The Blue Fire III mission highlighted and evaluated the Soldiers’ abilities and prepared them for a bigger exercise or “chemical Super Bowl” called Red Dragon, in June 2009. “That is where we actually get certified in homeland defense,” said Cpt. Peter A. Holloway, commander, 342nd Chemical Company. ■





SPC. RAYMOND QUINTANILLA

Pfc. Oliver Evangelista demonstrates a break dancing move.

# CITIZEN SOLDIER

## OLIVER EVANGELISTA

### Pfc. Phil Regina

305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**FORT MCCOY, Wis.** — Each night Pfc. Oliver Evangelista, a communication information technician for the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Fremont, Neb., mans the Entry Control Point at Contingency Operation Location Liberty at Fort McCoy. Each night he stands guard, tirelessly ensuring the safety of the Soldiers within.

But once the sun rises and his duties as a Soldier are done, Evangelista takes off his boots and puts on his dancing shoes.

"I've been break dancing for a little over two years now," said Evangelista. "I started about the same time I enlisted." "I joined the Army because I wanted to serve and go to school at the same time," said Evangelista.

Evangelista is a full-time college student at the University of Nebraska, where he is also a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadet.

"I have a lot going on. I'm a Soldier in the Army Reserve, a full-time student and a ROTC cadet. When I'm not busy with all that, I get to do what I truly love, dancing," Evangelista said.

Evangelista, along with a few of his college buddies, started the university's first and only break dancing crew.

"My crew and I get together on a weekly basis and practice our routines," said Evangelista. "It's hard work, but consistency is the key. The more you practice the better you get."

According to Evangelista, there is a purpose behind all the practice.

"We've had the chance to perform a couple of times since we started the crew," said Evangelista. "For me, one of the best feelings is having people come up to you after a performance and hearing them say, 'those were some sick moves'."

For Evangelista, dancing isn't just a hobby. It's a stress-free escape from his busy schedule.

"I love break dancing because it gives me a chance to clear my mind," Evangelista explained. "I have so many things on my mind throughout the day, but dancing makes all my stress and worries melt away." ✨



# AR AMBASSADOR Becomes Tennis Champion

By Paul Adams

Army Reserve Public Affairs

**SURPRISE, Ariz.** — 88th Regional Readiness Command Army Reserve Ambassador Mary Miller and her partner, Kathy Gillespie, played as members of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Super Senior 6.0 team from the Pacific Northwest that became National Champions at the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex April 29, 2009.

The USTA, America's largest recreational tennis league with 325,000 players nationwide, is for men and women over 19 years of age. Miller has been playing recreation and league tennis for the past 30 years.

No stranger to physical fitness, Miller is registered to run her sixth Army Ten-Miler in October 2009.

Miller is a teaching coordinator with Dr. John D. West at the Center for Endodontics in Tacoma, Wash. A retired Army Reserve sergeant major, she also serves as a military liaison for the Washington State West Central Committee of Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve.

Off the tennis court and away from her athletic endeavors, Ambassador Miller is a high energy advocate and enthusiastic promoter of Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families. As Army Reserve Ambassadors are a vital link to communities, Miller gets many opportunities to convey the Army Reserve message and promote awareness of the Army Reserve, goals and objectives of the Chief, Army Reserve through numerous avenues.

In the past she and area community leaders have visited local Army Reserve units where she has briefed the visitors on the unit's mission and history. This event helped strengthen the bonds between Soldiers and their community while showcasing the selfless service Reserve Soldiers offer to this great nation.

"We are advocates for the Army Reserve Soldier and their Families by educating community leaders, the public and congressional staff offices," Miller said.

As there are numerous and unique opportunities to each community and demographics for ambassadors to support the Soldiers, Miller most recently supported the "Annual Golf Tournament of Our Troops," in Yakima, Wash., organized by volunteers to raise money in order to buy and send items to Soldiers serving in the Middle East. Mostly veterans and Families, each team included a local Soldier, sailor, marine, and airman.

"This is another way that citizens and communities can show support for our military," Miller said. "We can open lines of communication within the community for our military Families. We can reach out to individual Soldiers and Families that we identify as needing assistance."

While Ambassador Miller brings a passion for the Army Reserve Soldier and Family into each message she conveys, she brings something unique to the job and serves the end purpose of educating the public and supporting Soldiers and Families. ✪



COURTESY OF USTA

SGT. 1ST CLASS CHRIS FARLEY

**TOP:** Army Reserve Ambassador Mary Miller serves during one of the first place winning matches of the United States Tennis Association Super Senior 6.0 tournament.

**BOTTOM:** Army Reserve Ambassador, Mary Miller, signs the Army Community Covenant at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Science in Yakima Valley, Washington on November 12, 2008.

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# Soldiers Join USNS Comfort on **HUMANITARIAN MISSION**

Story and Photos By  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Scott

366th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Lucille Herrera, 807th Medical Command, checks on a Haitian boy in the Intensive Care Unit on board the hospital ship USNS Comfort.

“I’m hoping to sharpen my medical skills really to enhance my training so I can perform better in the hospital setting and the combat field, if necessary.”

—SPC. FRANKIE DAVIS





Sgt. Michael Crosby, 807th Medical Command, takes an Antigua woman's temperature as part of the pre-operative screening process.



Sgt. Reggie Rhodes, 807th Medical Command, ensures a patient's lungs are clear in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital ship USNS Comfort.

USNS COMFORT, COURTESY US NAVY

**USNS COMFORT** — When the hospital ship USNS Comfort left Miami April 6, 2009 to continue on its four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission to Latin America and the Caribbean region, April 1 to July 31, more than 20 Army Reserve Soldiers from the 807th Medical Command, Seagoville, Texas, were aboard to support the operation.

“Being in the health field has always been a passion for me,” said Sgt. Reggie Rhodes, who works as a respiratory therapist aboard the Comfort. “When they came up with the joint mission on USNS Comfort, I was like, ‘OK, let’s see what this is about,’ and I get more thrills out of doing this more than anything else to help people who need help I could do that for free.”

Comfort provided medical, dental, veterinary and engineering assistance in seven countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Panama as part of Continuing Promise 2009 (CP09).

The Army Reserve Soldiers reported to the ship from commands throughout the United States, volunteering to leave their Families, friends and civilian jobs to assist in the mission. “I’m hoping to sharpen my medical skills really to enhance my training so I can perform better in the hospital setting and the combat field, if necessary,” said emergency room technician Spc. Frankie Davis.

Army Reserve Soldiers who work civilian jobs similar to the jobs they performed on Comfort brought with them experience and knowledge from outside the Army. Rhodes works as a home health care provider in Dallas, Texas and Davis is an emergency room patient care tech at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

They may not be used to active duty life as they do not perform their Army jobs daily; however, many of their shipmates were surprised to learn that the Army uniform was not their everyday attire.

“It’s been working really well,” said Rhodes. “Doing joint ops with the Navy,

we have been accepted real well. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Adele Hill has been great, she’s shown me everything and opened up her office to me. Everybody speaks to you, very friendly, very accepting; if this is the mission to go on, I have no complaints about it at all.”

CP09 combines U.S. military and interagency personnel, non-governmental organizations, academics and partner nations to provide medical, dental, veterinary and engineering services, afloat and ashore, alongside host nation personnel.

“From what we’ve gotten from the customs training and dealing with the public and how they’ll react, they’ll refer to almost everyone as doctor,” Davis added. “That’s one of the highest professions in their country. They’re expecting all this to be professional and all this is free treatment; I would imagine they would be extremely grateful for the services we are providing.” ■

# ENGINEERS FORGING ROADS AND FRIENDSHIPS

Story and Photo By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell  
Multi-National Division - Baghdad



A 6th Iraqi Army engineer soldier learns important hand and arm signals from San Antonio native Sgt. Augustine Deluna, a heavy construction equipment operator assigned to the 277th En. Co.

Barros. In order to do this, the vehicles are the classrooms.

"We sit with them inside the vehicles; it is a lot of hands-on training," said Velasquez, a native of San Marcos, Texas. "We just basically throw them in the mix. They have taken it to the next level and they've responded pretty well to the training."

The focus of this type of training has been to teach the IA engineers how to instruct other Iraqi Soldiers on how to use the vehicles as they will be the primary trainers for the rest of their unit when their equipment arrives, according to Barros.

"At this point, they are actually correcting each other without any of us intervening to let them develop their

trainer skills to help grow their own army," said a dirt-covered Barros.

"I wish that these future classes are the same with us and the Americans, because we can agree to work toward the same goals," said Pfc. Hadair Abas, a 6th IA engineer wearing a sweat-ringed desert camouflaged IA uniform. "We'll help this country and our people and we will all benefit."

Helping the IA engineers become self-sustaining while simultaneously starting a project to help FOB Constitution Soldiers live better is demanding work for the 277th En. Co.

However, uncovering an asphalt road while working allows for some humor on the job site, according to Barros, "We were just making fun of it and trying to find out where this road will take us."

They may not know where this road will take them, but the Iraqis will now be prepared to travel that road thanks to the friendships that have been cemented and the experience they gained with the help of the American training aid. ■

**FOB CONSTITUTION, Iraq** — Bulldozers and graters tear up chunks of earth as 6th Iraqi Army (IA) engineers and 277th Engineer Company Army Reserve Soldiers toil together during a five-day heavy machinery training class at Forward Operating Base Constitution, March 24, 2009.

"While we were out here, we found a road buried," said a smiling Sgt. 1st Class Bifredo Barros, 2nd Platoon sergeant for the 277th En. Co., 46th En. Battalion, 225th En. Brigade. "So we started to question what else we were going to find."

What engineers of the 6th IA and 277th Eng. Co. also found was friendship.

"When we first started the training, it was a little tense, but then we started opening up," said Spc. Aaron Velasquez, a heavy construction equipment operator also assigned to the 277th En. Co., an Army Reserve unit from San Antonio, Texas. "We just try to be as friendly as possible, they do the same to us, now it's just like we have known each other for years. We have got a great friendship."

Getting dirty and sweaty while training together helps forge friendships, but

cooperation is vital to upgrade the Iraqis' heavy machinery skills and complete the first phase of a horizontal construction project to benefit the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers living at FOB Constitution.

"The Soldiers treat us very well and we cooperate with them," said 2nd Lt. Nassim Rashid, an engineer assigned to the 6th IA En. Bn. "We are comfortable with the Americans and they treat us well. We are one team."

"The engineers from both militaries teamed together to accomplish two missions at once," added Barros, who hails from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"They are actually doing some real work in prepping the ground for an upcoming project," continued Barros as an IA Soldier in a bulldozer flattened out the land behind him to mitigate the drainage of the soil. "We're going to do it in such a way that the water is going to run away from the buildings."

Along with preparing the soil, the training that the IA engineers receive will help them work their own equipment which they will acquire in August, added





**LEFT:** A pregnant woman and her concerned husband are escorted into the decontamination tent by Army Reserve Soldiers. The husband and wife from the 300th Chemical Company, who are married in real life, were just two of the 100 casualties involved in the radiological simulation.

**RIGHT:** After being scrubbed with cold water, this "casualty," who is playing the role of a hearing impaired woman, reaches the final station of the decontamination tent. Depending on her injuries, she may be transported to the emergency room for further evaluation by the hospital staff.

# RED DRAGON 09

## Takes Homeland Defense to New Level

Story and Photos By Sgt. Mekonya Cheefus

335th Signal Command

**MILWAUKEE, Wis.** — On June 17, 2009 the scene at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis. appeared to be out of a sci-fi movie. A radiological explosive had gone off, contaminating hundreds of people. The hospital grounds were chaotic and casualties everywhere were screaming for help. Response teams, fire fighters, ambulances and medical staff frantically assisted and screened the victims for radiation contamination. Among them was the U.S. Army Reserve.

Luckily, instead of a real world disaster, this Hollywood scene was one part of a training exercise called Operation Red Dragon organized by the 335th Signal Command from East Point, Ga.

Approximately 3,000 Army Reserve Soldiers from the 415th Chemical Brigade traveled to the Southeast region of Wisconsin to participate in this annual homeland defense training exercise. The purpose was to test coordination and communication between the military, area hospitals and local authorities to enhance military responsiveness in the event of a real world disaster.

"I don't want the community to view us as a threat, or that we're there to take over

anything," said Lt. Col. Leslie Dillard, chief of Homeland Defense with the 335th. "We're there to train with their personnel in the community and help make us better as responders, just in case something happens."

Usually held at Fort McCoy, Wis., this was the first time the military has expanded the exercise to involve civil authorities. As a result, simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks took place in a number of cities, such as Madison, Sheboygan and Lacrosse.

A variety of agencies participated, including the FBI, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, local police and fire departments, local hospitals, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard.

"They [Reserve Soldiers] provide support. They report to that fire chief and say, 'where would you like us to be?'" explained Brig. Gen. James T. Cook, commander of the 415th Chemical Brigade, Greenville, S.C. "This is a complete supportive role."

During the exercise, Soldiers made use of a full range of special equipment to

simulate decontaminating and treating the "casualties." Some mock victims were decontaminated and treated in the emergency department.

The 300th Chemical Company from Morgantown, W.V. took their job very seriously as they pretended to be casualties for the day. From a pregnant woman going into labor to engaging in small altercations about who should be tended to next, they remained in full character.

"My Soldiers are very happy to be here," said 1st Lt. Whinston Antion, company commander of the 300th. "By having these role players, it challenges the units and helps them to understand what could happen in a real world scenario."

The exercise concluded June 27, 2009 with Soldiers undergoing validation testing of their response skills by Army officials.

"We have to be ready. Anything could happen, as we are well aware with 9/11. We were caught off-guard, and so we've made a determination that we're not going to be caught off-guard again," Dillard said. ■

## MEDICAL UNIT CARES FOR RESIDENTS

Story and Photos By  
Master Sgt. Enid Ramos-Mandell  
Army Reserve Medical Command

# BEY

Maj. Paul J. Slocum takes a young child's blood pressure in the village of San Narciso during Beyond the Horizon 2009 in Belize, Medical Training Exercise (MEDRETE) in the District of Corozal.



**DISTRICT OF COROZAL**, Belize — As the Army Reserve set up their tents and medical facilities under the scorching Belizean sun, residents in need of medical care began to arrive at the 7212th Medical Support Unit's

“FOR ME, THE MOST REWARDING PART OF THIS MISSION IS COMING BACK TO WHERE I GREW UP AND ACTUALLY FEELING THAT I'M ABLE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.”

—MAJ. ALEXANDER DEGAZZO

(MSU) camp, eager to be treated by these Citizen-Soldier professionals.

Thirty Soldiers from the 7212th MSU, a team of health care professionals headquartered in Rochester, Minn., traveled to Belize for two weeks on a Medical Training Exercise (MEDRETE). They were part of the U.S. Southern Command exercise called “Beyond the

Horizon,” a mission on which medical units deploy and provide humanitarian assistance to Latin America and Caribbean nations as a way of building and exchanging knowledge with host nation officials.

The unit worked with the Belizean Defense Forces, who provided security for the exercise as well as a doctor and a medic in support of the mission.

Word of the 7212th's visit and capabilities spread quickly via radio and television, as many were in need of the free medical care the unit was providing.

Residents were greeted and briefed, with the help of a translator, on how to prevent the spread of disease before being seen at the triage station. The medical team broke down into different sections consisting of internal medicine, general medicine, dental, and ophthalmology; they also had a small pharmacy.

The exercise was an emotionally happy one for one member of the 7212th. Maj. Alexander Degazzo, a family practitioner from Lawton, Okla. moved to Belize when he was just five years old. He grew up in Corozal, and lived there until he turned 18, when he left for college in the U.S.

“For me, the most rewarding part of this mission is coming back to where I

grew up and actually feeling that I'm able to give something back to the community,” he said. “At the same time I'm helping the community which I currently live in back in the United States, because I had the opportunity to treat uncommon illnesses rarely seen in the States,” he added.

The mission was also sad at times, especially for the doctors working on special needs children within the community whose parents have little hope for cures due to limited resources in Belize.

One child that stood out among the rest was Tyrel Sutherland, a 4-year old with a rare disease called Ichthyosis, a disease that causes the skin to blister and fall off the body.

The 7212th MSU was able to offer options for treatment to make the child more comfortable. Additionally they suggested treatment out of the country, where more medical options are available, and provided referrals to the District of Corozal Hospital.



# BEYOND THE HORIZON *IN BELIZE*

In addition to the special needs patients, the 7212th witnessed a lot of optical problems among residents.

According to unit ophthalmologist, Col. Hector Nevarrez, there is a great need for eyeglasses and preventive education.

"The most urgent need for these patients is eyeglasses to read and do their sewing," he said.

Many patients also had vision problems due to cataracts and a condition known as Pterygium, consequences of their proximity to the equator where the sun is stronger.

Nevarrez and his team provided preventive education and gave residents medicated drops that decongest the eyes for comfort. They then referred them for proper care and surgery at the District of Corozal hospital.

The dental team headed by Col. Ocie Drake, provided preventive education, identified cavities, and extracted teeth that were beyond repair. They also distributed dental hygiene tools to reinforce the preventive care instructions.

During the MEDRETE, the 7212th MSU also participated in a Veterinarian Training Exercise or VETRETE, caring for the area's animals by providing

medical attention to both domestic and farm animals. This ensured the health of those animals and prevented the spread of diseases that could be transmitted to the remainder of the animal population.

The unit examined for and treated many diseases, including H1N1 "swine flu". The veterinarians worked along side the Belizean Agricultural Health Department to locate the areas with the greatest need and found no H1N1 cases.

At the end of the two-week mission, the unit departed Belize knowing they made a positive contribution to the District of Corozal.

According to the Staff Sgt. Ronda Parker-Lojo, the unit's acting 1st Sgt., the unit helped thousands of residents in need.

"More than 3,000 patients were seen by our professionals. We were able to issue over 300 pairs of eyeglasses and examine more than 700 patients in our optometry section. Our dentists completed over 200 dental extractions from the hundreds of patients they examined," she said. "Additionally, we examined more than 2,000 animals." ■



**TOP:** Maj. Brenda J. Johnson examines a young child in the village of San Narciso. Johnson deployed to Belize with the 7212th Medical Support Unit, during Beyond the Horizon 2009, for their annual training. The unit examined over 3,000 residents of Belize.

**BOTTOM:** Col. Hector Nevarrez an ophthalmologist, discusses treatment options for a Belizean patient he just examined in the village of San Narciso. Nevarrez deployed to Belize with the 7212th Medical Support Unit during Beyond the Horizon 2009, Medical Training Exercise (MEDRETE) in the District of Corozal.



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